

With the Medical Officer of Health's Compliments.  
-----

NEWPORT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.  
-----

A N N U A L   R E P O R T   F O R

THE YEAR 1942

BY

T H E   M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H ,

H. CATTO, M.D., D.P.H.

NEWPORT, Mon.  
-----



# NEWPORT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
ROYAL CHAMBERS,  
HIGH STREET,  
NEWPORT, Mon.  
15th March, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee  
acting as the Port Health Authority.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1942. It is made in accordance with the Regulations of the Ministry of Health which prescribe the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, and their Circular No. 1937 dated 11th January, 1940.

## Constitution of Port Health Authority:-

"The Port Health Authority is the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Newport, acting by the Council. It discharges Port functions in waters abutting upon the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District in addition to the Newport County Borough."

Riparian Districts included (wholly or in part) in the Port Health District are:-

County Borough of Newport.

Magor and St. Mellons Council District: Parishes -

Nash, Goldcliffe, Redwick, St. Brides and Peterstone.

City and County Borough of Cardiff: Parish - Rumney.

The contributions of these Authorities towards expenditure are in proportion to the Rateable Value of the Districts. The current Precept is as follows:- County Borough of Newport, 95.25 per cent; the Rural District Council of Magor and St. Mellons, .73 per cent; City and County Borough of Cardiff, 4.02 per cent.

Vessels Inspected during the year.

TABLE A.

Number Inspected.			
By the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	12
By the Sanitary Inspector.	...	...	1843
Number reported to be Defective...	...	...	147
Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied.			143
Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious diseases on board...	...	...	43

### Source of Water Supply.

The drinking water of the Port is obtained from the Reservoirs of the Corporation of Newport. The water supply is shipped direct from the town mains. There are no water boats.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

Information in reference to cases of Infectious Diseases on inward vessels and vessels requiring special attention is supplied by Pilots by arrangement with the Pilotage Board, Shipping Agents and H.M. Customs. The Preventive Officers on duty at the Alexandra Docks Entrance report any such information to the Port Sanitary Inspector or by telephone to the office during office hours and to the Medical Officer of Health at his private residence at all other times day and night.

Twelve vessels arrived from Ports infected, or suspected to be infected with Smallpox, Plague or Typhus Fever during the year. No case of suspicious illness occurred during the voyage or after the vessel's arrival in Port.

Seventy cases of infectious sickness, etc., occurred on vessels during their voyages to Newport or after arrival here namely:- Malaria 5, Venereal Diseases 42, Measles 3, Scabies and Tuberculosis 1. (See Tables "C" and "D").

Ordinary cases of Infectious Diseases were accommodated at the Borough Isolation Hospital and conveyed in the Borough Ambulances, by arrangement between the two Authorities. There were no cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever or Smallpox.

The disinfection of quarters is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Inspectors and infected bedding, clothing, etc., is either disinfected at the Borough Disinfection Station or burnt.

### Venereal Diseases.

Dr. Ingram, the Medical Officer in charge of the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital, has supplied me with the following particulars re treatment of Seamen, who visited the Port during the year:-

	British Subjects.					Foreigners.			Totals.		
	Wh.	Col.	Tot. 1942	Tot. 1941	Aver. 1937-1941	Tot. 1942	Tot. 1941	Aver. 1937-1941	1942	1941	Aver. 1937-1941
No. of patients examined	71	13	84	98	87	138	205	104.2	222	303	191
Suffering from											
Syphilis	23	2	25	22	23.4	68	87	36.8	93	109	60
Gonorrhoea	23	7	35	59	48.6	47	90	45.2	82	149	93
Soft Chancre	7	-	7	3	3.6	8	13	9.4	15	16	13
Not V.D.	13	4	17	14	11.4	15	15	12.8	32	29	24
Total Attendances.	291	78	369	443	366.8	378	532	281.4	747	975	648



Both the number of patients examined and the number of cases found to be suffering from Venereal Disease showed a decrease during 1942 as compared with 1941. This decrease applied to all the diseases; but Syphilis and Soft Chancre among British white subjects (as distinct from British coloured and foreign subjects) showed an increase, but it was not sufficient to counter balance the decrease among the coloured and foreign subjects. From the table it will be seen that the number of all the Venereal Diseases is still higher than the average for the previous five years, it is considerably above the figures for pre-war years, but the rate of increase shown in 1941 has diminished.

The nationalities of the foreign seamen examined, with the numbers found to be suffering from Venereal Disease in brackets, were:- American 3 (7); Belgian 3 (2); Chinese 3 (3); Danish 20 (19); Dutch 49 (41); Egyptian 1 (1); Estonian 5 (4); French 6 (6); Greek 3 (2); Latvian 3 (3); Norwegian 24 (24); Polish 4 (4); Portugese 1 (nil); Russian 1 (1); Swedish 6 (6); Yugo-Slav. 1 (nil).

20.3 per cent of the British Seamen (White and Coloured) and 10.9 per cent of the Foreign Seamen examined were found not to be suffering from Venereal Disease, compared with 14.3 per cent and 7.3 per cent respectively during 1941, and with 13.1 and 12.3 per cent respectively during the previous five years.

The book (v.44) issued by the Ministry of Health is supplied to each seaman patient to ensure continuity of treatment at other Ports.

There was a fall in the number of attendances compared with the previous year; the figure was still only slightly above the average number for the previous 5 years. The attendances numbered 369 compared with 975 in 1941, 657 in 1940, 423 in 1939, 539 in 1938, 647 in 1937, and with 648 the annual average for the five years 1937 - 1941.

The average number of attendances per patient was 3.4 precisely the same as the average for the previous five years. The British Subjects with 4.4 attendances per patient did better than the foreign seamen whose average per patient was only 2.7.

The chief reason for the few attendances per patient is of course that vessels usually remain in dock only for a short time - and this period of stay is less now than formerly, owing to war conditions.

Propaganda. In an endeavour to prevent further increase in the incidence of Venereal Disease which has occurred among seamen since the outbreak of war, the Local Venereal Diseases Committee in conjunction with the Health Committee issued during the year 1940 a Port Health Brochure or Seafarers Guide for distribution to all seamen arriving at the Port. The immediate purpose of the booklet is to warn seamen of the risk of contracting Venereal Disease through promiscuous intercourse and to give particulars of the local treatment centre and of social centres and places of entertainment available to them in the town. Its distribution has been continued throughout the year 1942.

---

The bacteriological examinations of rats in connection

with Plague precautions, as well as other bacteriological examinations such as Swabs for K.L.B., Bloods for Widal Reaction, etc., have been carried out at the Bacteriological Laboratory attached to the Health Department, pending the putting into operation of new arrangements which at present are being considered by the Council.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	Number during 1942 of		
	Passengers	Crew	Vessels concerned
Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Malaria	-	1	1
Scabies	-	19	9
Venereal Diseases	-	35	25
TOTAL:	-	56	36

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease.	No. of cases during 1942.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Malaria	-	4	1
Measles	-	3	1
Venereal Diseases	-	7	5
TOTAL:	-	14	7

#### MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Special attention is paid to the work of detection of rodents on vessels, quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the Port and Borough. An experienced rat catcher is specially employed for this work.

Deratisation of vessels under the International Regulations for the prevention of plague, etc., is carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Inspectors. The chemicals used are Sulphur and Hydrocyanic Acid. The rat population around the docks has been materially reduced of recent years by special attention to warehouses and other places of harbourage, such as river banks, tips, etc. 321 rats were destroyed on these premises in 1942 compared with 309 in 1941. On board ship 723 rats were destroyed as against 783 in 1941.

Rats destroyed during 1941.

TABLE E. On Vessels.

No. destroyed.	No. examined.	No. found to be infected with Plague.
723	21	Nil.

In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses. TABLE F.

No. destroyed.	No. examined.	No. found to be infected with Plague.
321	Nil.	Nil.



TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessel or Vessels from plague infected ports arriving in the Port during the year.

One Vessel arrived in Newport during 1942.  
No measures of rat destruction were carried out at Newport.

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

No. of Ships...	...	...	...	...	...	42
No. of Deratisation Certificates issued:						
After	)	HCN...	...	...	6	
fumigation)		Sulphur	...	...	5	
with	)	HCN and Sulphur...			-	
After trapping,						
poisoning, etc..		...	...	10		
Total	...	...	...	...	...	21
No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued:						21
Total Certificates issued						42

Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

	Number	Percentage of Total.
No. of Vessels inspected during 1942 ... ..	1843	-
Defects of original construction...	3	1.17
Structural defects through wear and tear.. ...	66	25.68
Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health. ...	188	73.15

General Inspection of Vessels.

3.0 per cent of the 1843 vessels (including British and Foreign) inspected during the year had sanitary defects according to the present standard laid down by the Board of Trade.

The types of nuisances and defects dealt with show that 73.2 per cent of the nuisances were due to lack of care and sanitary supervision of the living quarters, whilst 26.8 per cent were due to defective structural conditions, including those caused through wear and tear. The great majority of both types of nuisances could have been avoided by stricter supervision of the crew and attention to minor structural defects.

With regard to individual nuisances discovered, dirty

and verminous crew's quarters, berths, wash-places and mess-rooms accounted for 29.8 per cent., foul water closets for 2.3 per cent., and defective and dirty lockers 31.4 per cent.

Lack of attention to fittings and structures, including defective side scuttles, deck prisms, ventilators, side ports, cable castings and hawse pipes, insufficient heating apparatus or defective stoves, etc., were responsible for a large proportion of the other insanitary conditions.

Although many of the above insanitary conditions are no doubt due to carelessness on the part of the crew, the "ultimate responsibility," as stated by the special Committee appointed by shipowners to enquire into the subject, "rests upon the master, and the degree of cleanliness is a criterion of the discipline of the ship."

A supply of the pamphlet "Prevention of Infestation of Ships by the Bed-Bug" compiled by the Association of Port Health Authorities has been obtained and copies are distributed to Masters of Vessels where necessary.

I wish to thank the Collector of H.M. Customs and his "Preventive" Officers and the Clerk of the Pilotage Board for affording prompt and valuable assistance at all times in carrying out preventive work in connection with Infectious Diseases.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

H. CATTO

Medical Officer of Health.

#### INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee acting as the Port Health Authority.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1942.

#### SHIP INSPECTION.

During the year, 1843 vessels were inspected and 147 (8.0 per cent) of them were found to have nuisances or defects on board. It was not necessary to serve any statutory notices with regard to these vessels. 197 verbal and informal notices were given, as a result of which most of the nuisances and defects were remedied and 50 quayside nuisances abated. 2,032 re-visits were made to vessels in connection with sick nuisances and defects, rat destruction and to vessels from infected areas.

#### Nuisances and Defects.

Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health accounted for 138 (73.2 per cent), structural defects caused through wear and tear for 66 (25.7 per cent) and defects of original construction 3 (1.2 per cent) of the total found. The numbers and types of nuisances and defects dealt with on all vessels together with percentages, are shown in Table J of the Medical Officer of Health's Report. Table 1 indicates the various nuisances dealt with and of these 6.0 per cent were due to the verminous condition of quarters and berths, 31.4 per cent to dirty and defective lockers, 17.4 per cent to dirty quarters, 3.8 per cent to defective ports, and 4.0



per cent to foul and defective water closets and fittings.

Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.

The number of crews' quarters and berths found in a dirty condition during the year was practically the same as that of the previous year.

It is evident that greater care is now being exercised by Masters of vessels, in the control of vermin; both the number of vessels and the number of quarters dealt with during the year being considerably less than those for the previous year. When the infestation was of a slight nature, disinfection was carried out by spraying a recognised insecticide into all crevices of woodwork and bunks, whilst in cases of heavy infestation the quarters were fumigated by means of burning sulphur or hydrogen cyanide, the metal bunks dismantled and the blow lamp used.

Most of the foul water closets which came under observation during the year were of the enamelled iron type. This type of pan soon becomes coated with foul matter under ordinary conditions of usage, and when the water service is intermittent (deck service,) the fouling is accelerated.

Structural Defects caused through Wear and Tear.

Defective port frames, linings and broken glasses, defective stoves and fittings, bunks, water closets and lockers were responsible for the greater number of this type of defect and many of these conditions were caused by misuse and lack of attention. Other defects dealt with were defective ventilators and shutters, hawse pipes, floors, leaky decks and broken entrance doors.

TABLE 1.

Nuisances and Defects dealt with.

Defective bunks and fittings	...	...	...	9
" heating apparatus	...	...	...	4
" side ports and deck prisms	...	...	...	53
" ventilators and fittings	...	...	...	1
" water closets and fittings	...	...	...	24
" hawse pipes, etc.	...	...	...	3
" or dirty food lockers	...	...	...	441
" floors and leaky decks	...	...	...	24
" doors	...	...	...	2
" drainage	...	...	...	2
" wash basins	...	...	...	4
" stoves and fittings	...	...	...	13
Dirty crew quarters and berths	...	...	...	245
" messrooms	...	...	...	65
" wash places	...	...	...	24
" and/or verminous beds	...	...	...	361
Verminous crew quarters and berths	...	...	...	84
Foul water closets	...	...	...	32
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	13
Quayside nuisances	...	...	...	50
Wooden chain pipes in crews quarters	...	...	...	4
Choked scupper pipes	...	...	...	10

Rat Destruction.

The warehouses, sheds, quays, hoists, sidings, river banks, wharves and private premises within the district were periodically inspected and 11,550 poison baits laid down.

321 rats were found dead after poisoning and of these 176 were picked up on the wharves and banks of the River Usk and 145 on the banks of the River Ebbw. Immediate measures are taken when fresh evidence of rats is seen or their presence reported.

The number of rats destroyed on board vessels during the year was 723. 5 vessels were fumigated by means of burning sulphur, and on four of these ships trapping was also employed 62 rats being killed by traps and 135 by burning sulphur. 6 vessels were fumigated with hydrogen cyanide and on five of these ships trapping was also employed; 51 rats being killed by traps and 417 by hydrogen cyanide. On 10 vessels measure of trapping only were utilized, resulting in the destruction of 58 rats.

Certificates issued:- Deratisation, 21; Exemption, 21.

With a few exceptions, all vessels from foreign ports are examined for evidence of rats and when recent indications are found, precautions are taken to prevent the rats making their way to the shore.

#### The Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations, 1930.

Six budgerigars, two parrots and two love birds came under observation during the year. Notices were served prohibiting their import and in each case a written undertaking that the birds would not be landed was received from the owner. All the birds were in a healthy condition and were taken away on board the vessels when they left the port.

#### Importation of Animals.

The various orders with reference to the importation of canine and other animals have been enforced during the year 190 dogs and 306 cats were imported directly or indirectly. The vessels concerned were visited during their stay in port to ensure that the requirements of the Orders were observed.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED) FOOD REGULATIONS, 1937.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED) MILK REGULATIONS, 1926.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925 - 1927.

-----  
In accordance with the powers contained in these Regulations relating to the inspection of Foods arriving from foreign and home ports, the provisions have been carried out in so far as they concern the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, with regard to the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1927; it has not been found necessary to take any action.

The quantities of various kinds of foodstuffs withheld from human consumption during the year were as follows:-

#### Imported Food.

Canned meats	1,809½ lbs.	Dried prunes	25 lbs.
" Milk	2,590 lbs.	Lard	280 lbs.
" fruit	624½ lbs.	Wheat	8,736 lbs.

#### Ship Stores.

Meat	2,983 lbs.
Other foods	134 lbs.

#### THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. M. SCORRER,

Senior Port Sanitary Inspector.